

Erect herb, grows to 40 cm, unbranched. Leaves simple, alternate, rarely form a rosette at base, sessile, obovate or oblong-elliptic, 2-6 x 1-2.5 cm, base attenuate in lower leaves, auricled in upper ones, serrately dentate, apiculate. Heads few in terminal corymbs, yellow, 6 mm, heterogamous, not rayed; peduncle to 1 cm. Involucral bracts 26, 4-seriate, outer ovate-elliptic, acute, tapering; inner ones oblong-lanceolate, acuminate. Receptacle slightly raised, concave, 3 mm across. Female florets around 280, filiform, corolla 3 mm, pubescent with colleters; style 3 mm, exerted to 1.5 mm. Bisexual florets around 16, 3-3.5 mm, 5-lobed, lobes ovate, sub-acute to obtuse. Stamens 5, linear-oblong, 1 mm, obtuse at base. Style 2.5 mm, stylè branches acute. Pappus of 20-24 uniseriate, white, setose hairs, united at base forming a ring. Achenes elliptic or obovate,

1-1.5 mm, muricate and unicellular hairy.

Ecology: Garden weed, open hill slopes at high elevations, rare.

Fl: Nov-Feb.

Distribution: A.P.: Visakhapatnam (Araku valley), CPR 9993.

INDIA: Jammu & Kashmir, H.P., U.P., Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Mizoram, Orissa, Gujarat.

WORLD: Pakistan, Nepal, America.

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35. UNUSUAL NUMBER OF SEPALS AND PETALS IN FEMALE FLOWERS OF *BAUHINIA MALABARICA* ROXB. (LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE)

(With one text-figure)

Bauhinia malabarica Roxb. belongs to *Bauhinia* subgen. *Elayuna* sect. *Piliostigma* (Wunderline *et al.*, Biol. Skr. Dan. Vid. Selsk. 28: 18. 1987). Recently I observed that in a few of the female flowers, collected from a tree of this dioecious species cultivated in division 21 of the Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, the sepals and petals were unusual in number. There were four sepals and four petals instead of the usual five. All other floral features were, however, similar to those flowers with five sepals and five petals. The presence of four sepals and four petals in a flower has neither been reported in this species nor in any other member of the subgenus *Elayuna* so far.

A voucher specimen (14.xi.1995, *Bandyopadhyay* 18366), collected from the tree with female flowers having usual and unusual number of sepals and petals, has been deposited in CAL.

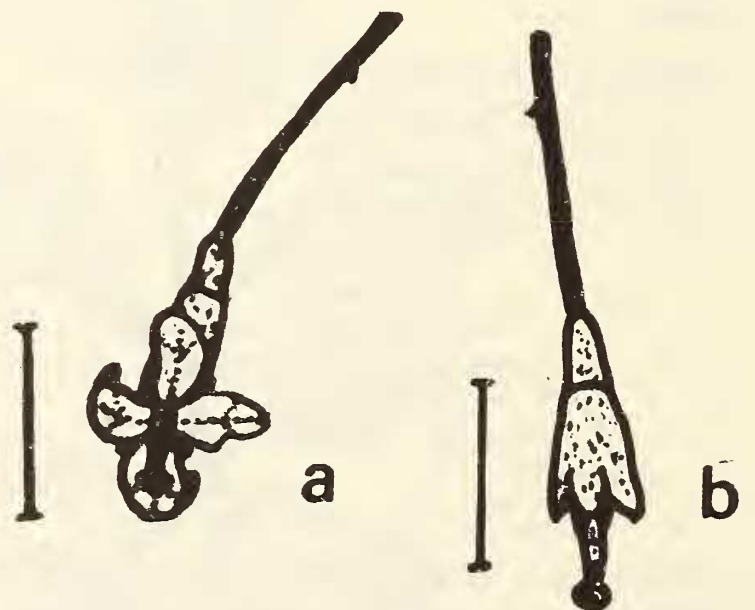


Fig. 1. *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb.: a. A female flower with unusual number of sepals and petals; b. petals removed from the flower to show sepals. (Scale = 1 cm).

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